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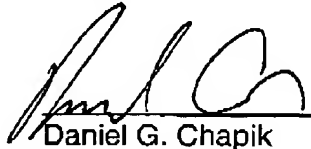
**REMARKS**

With this Preliminary Amendment, claim 15 has been amended to include the dependency from claim 14. This is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, consideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Ferek-Petric et al.

12/15/03  
Date

  
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